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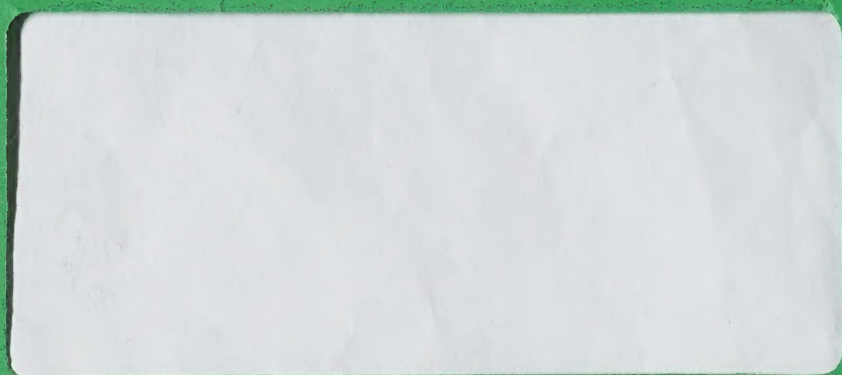
the ROYAL COMMISSION on the NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

PAST MISTAKES OF GOVERNMENT

AND

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

Funding Program Report



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ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

J.E.J. FAHLGREN, COMMISSIONER

PAST MISTAKES OF GOVERNMENT

AND

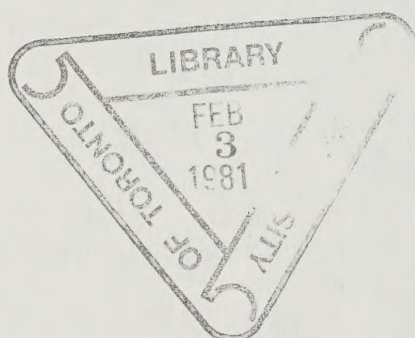
LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

by

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Moosonee, Ontario

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THIS PUBLICATION HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT'S FUNDING PROGRAM. HOWEVER, NO OPINIONS, POSITIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE COMMISSION; THEY ARE THOSE SOLELY OF THE AUTHOR(S).



TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

I wish to thank the Commission for giving me the right to express my feelings, emotions and criticisms of the way we live here in this part of the North.

I was not involved in any of the previous meetings under Justice Hartt. This will be the first time in my life that I have received any money to prepare a brief. I have written a couple of briefs on the subjects that I will be discussing in this brief, and as usual, nothing was ever done about them.

At all the meetings that we have had with various Government departments they seem to say the same thing over and over: " I'll look into it " or " I'll see what I can do ".

When a person expresses themselves it seems to them that at least they got it off their chest. But they observe that nothing is done and this frustrates them. They say, "what's the use knocking your head on a stone wall", so they go on existing the way they have always done.

I noticed in the contract that I have with the Commission that I have to comply with certain regulations. Well, I am not familiar with such things. It is not my way of life here in the North.

It always is from Toronto offices. Don't we have people in the North who can handle this? When I want money or other things, do I go to Toronto?

No! I go to the Bank or the stores here.

There was a person some time back who wanted to divide Ontario into North and South. Perhaps this person was tired of always having to deal with Queen's Park, when it could have been dealt with in the North and cut out of a lot of red tape and save time. Time means money to a lot of people.

I think along the same lines about the North and South. I am sure a lot of other Northerners do. Perhaps in this brief and research I will be duplicating the same subjects as others, but sometimes it has to be said or told over and over until it sinks into someone's head. Let's hope so.

I was only given half of the money I had asked for so this brief will not be as complete as I intended it to be. When applying for such grants you notice after applying that you have left out certain things. Then it is too late. It seems to me the Commission did the same thing. We also notice that the Government gives out money to various groups, associations or commissions, just enough to get by on or not enough causing them to run into a deficit or they may have to cut back some on their programs. I have really noticed it in my time.

I think that there can be a lot of operations that can be successful if they were given the money to do it properly and can operate on their own.

The same applies to enterprizes that operate on a borrowed amount of money to be later paid back.

Then there are some organizations that get too much money and it is misspent.

People are like animals in the place where they inhabit, they acclimatize with their surroundings.

We of the North are strong in some ways but we can not hold onto our resources and potential. It is controlled by the South where we are outnumbered. While writing this brief, I do hope the persons that read and analyse it can read between the lines also.

We owe it to our children so let's get started on it.

Operations that can be Done and Should be Done

While visiting and talking to people, from tourist operators, government people, native and non native persons, they had all agreed that there is a lot of idleness, unemployment and a lack of recreation in Moosonee.

They also agreed that having camps for the young men and women of our community, to teach them the basics of their ancestors' way of life such as hunting, fishing and trapping would be a good idea. Of course a native person should do the teaching as they are the most experienced.

There are some really good locations nearby for such camps or institutions but I want it known that the area is not to be trapped, hunted, and fished

out. They should also be taught to preserve nature. They can go out on their own to other grounds where they can make a decent living and enjoy it. These camps can be used year after year.

There would have to be some type of communications from the camp to the town to order supplies or for emergencies if someone became quite ill. They could have indoor and outdoor recreation there also.

Part of the training would also include improvement of their native language.

We know that a lot of our younger generation do not speak their native language and do not even know the simplest things like setting snares and setting traps for the easiest to trap - fur bearing animals; or even fixing a line to fish or even paddling a canoe.

We take it for granted that they can do all these things, this is not so. What I mean is the public in general takes it for granted, including tourists and people from the South.

This is why I would like to see these outdoor camps or institutions built and organized in the right way. It can be done and our younger people can enjoy and learn their heritage.

I congratulate one school in Moose Factory for its programs to help the Native youngsters to keep their language and heritage. I think it is the only school that does it in the North. This program has been going on five years or more.

What I am concerned about is our children 16 to 25 years old. You can see that there is no work for them or proper recreation. Idleness causes laziness, then vandalism and drunkenness, and other unpleasant things.

Road to the South

I know that some of the people are opposed to a road from hereto the South but a proper vote was never taken in the right way.

I was thinking along with others that a road going South in stages would help out the heavy equipment courses offered in Moosonee.

There is a lot of sand and gravel in the river bed that can be taken out during the winter to build a winter road to Fraserdale.

When the Ontario Northland Railway was built during the 1930's the muskeg was not taken away or pushed to the side. The fill was just put on top and it is still intact today. The method used today is to cut and burn the trees and then push the muskeg off and put in fill and crushed rock. The trees they cut could be used for fire wood, lumber and pulp instead of just burning it.

Jobs Lost by Locals and Natives

It is one of the policies of the Federal government to give natives jobs where they will fit in and be trained and upgraded later as it is needed.

Last year there was a job opening in the post office. There were ten applicants interviewed. Out of the ten there were three or four natives and local people and three transients.

The natives and locals were with grades from ten to twelve and the transients had college and university education. Now it seems only logical that the person with the higher education would get the job, and did so. Where does that leave the natives and local people? They come about the middle of the ladder and the job qualifications required a grade ten education.

In the liquor store there were also part time jobs. Who do they get to do them? A principal and school teachers from both schools. Now these people have their spouses working also here and there in the community. Now these people are paid a nice salary with all benefits and allowances that anyone needs and should get.

As a result of these kinds of things happening whenever a job comes up, our local and native people are not interested as they know there is no chance after being turned down several times before. Sometimes you have to be told by others about things going on at the local level.

We all have this thing called greed; some have it more than others I guess; it is only natural if you have a large family you want more money.

We know of a local contractor who works practically all year round who has hired his own family who are single, above others who have the experience and who are married.

Foremen have hired their own friends and family above others and in some cases have hired persons who are on their holidays.

In this community we have access to remote places by air and water and we see supplies and materials being transported by those methods and on rare occasions by winter road. As we noticed there is a lot of dressed lumber and other wood products being shipped.

As a past lumberjack, sawmill worker and bush traveler, I know there is enough raw materials to produce these materials here for local needs and for further North. We also have the men and women to operate such an operation. So it seems we're left to support ourselves. I have spoken to some business men but they do not have the capital to invest in such an operation.

All this raw material stands there ready to be destroyed by a human error, carelessness and an act of nature. "Act of God" is always expressed as the cause of many disasters but this I do not believe. I think that in many cases, if the government were to act for the good of the people of the North, this would be an "Act of God".

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications let a contract to a company from outside of the community to clear and burn the underbrush from its site of approximately five and half acres of brush here in Moosonee.

I was called by phone to put in a bid, which I did knowing what I had to do. It was not myself I was thinking about for this job, it was a dozen young lads with nothing to do and who were unable to collect unemployment insurance benefits or welfare assistance. So I bid what I thought was a fair price, as I had done this type of work before. I had held a foreman's position for the clearing of this site before.

The price might have been a bit high but not by today's standard of living. I never heard anymore about it.

Later I noticed this lot was being cleared by an officer in charge of the weather station.

The jobs were given to friends and young students who had no experience at the job. It was not properly done and is to this day not yet finished.

Mining Potential

In later years I was hired by mining companies to stake and bring in samples of outcrops if we came across them. It was on some of these expeditions that I would come across some very interesting samples, and it became known that I knew a little about prospecting. I knew a lot about mining as I

had worked three and one-half years, and any samples I was not sure of I would give to a more experienced person or to a Toronto firm and get it analysed. Some of the results were very gratifying. I was told to look further in all directions North, East, South and West. Some of these samples were given to me by Natives who found them on their trapping grounds or that they would pick up where they were hunting for moose.

I was thinking it would be an excellent idea to have summer camps for our young people, both men and women, to go out to these outcrops and get the practical experience from the proper people. As we know practically all the mines were found by prospectors who we have not given credit for their hard work and hardships.

I received a new letter on mining areas that are being opened to staking, and other complicated work that only mining companies can do. This leaves out the individual or small groups. We must admit there would be some revenue for some of the local people if they were hired.

Onakawana Lignite

This lignite should not be mined because we do not need it at the present time. We have a surplus of power according to our hydro department which is stopping some of their projects that are not too far away from being completed.

This company wants to mine and process the lignite and should use their money in other fields of employment. Sure we need jobs but what about the next generation, our sons and daughters, and their children.

Thinking of that, we could give the lignite time to turn into coal, say seventy-five to one hundred years for our children's children. We would not have to process it the way we have to now. It would be much easier for them I think and cost a lot less. There have been a lot of mistakes made by not thinking of our next generation. You can see it in your community and in your travels.

Our Ontario Government wants to put three million dollars into studies, etc. This money would probably go to groups that do not live in the North but are from the South or even out of Canada, and our local people would get very little; perhaps nothing. It would not be the first time. These study groups can go through a million in no time. In my work with geologists and others, and by listening, they say that there is potential for mines, gas and oil in the North.

Recreation

Recreation is a topic I had written a brief on four or five years prior to this brief.

At that time I sent my brief to a consultant on recreation with the Ontario Metis and Non Status Indian Association in Toronto. We agreed that it was

a feasible brief and forwarded it to the Ontario Government department in the recreation field. As everyone can very well see today, there still has not been anything done for recreation in Moosonee.

Recreation Complex

Our Recreation Director, along with the recreation committee are just getting started on what they hope will be a complete arena with all indoor sports facilities. The original plan for this area was to apply to Wintario for assistance, but now they are no longer giving any more funds to any organizations or municipalities for a year. Wintario is still having the draws so it looks like we will have to wait another year to have these facilities for our young people.

Some of the biggest gamblers are up here in these Northern communities. They go to bingos, buy TV bingo cards, and buy books of Wintario, and other single tickets like Cash for Life, Provincial, etc.

There are a few winners; none become millionaires though. They win enough to get their money back, but yet they keep on buying and playing week after week and month after month. They will still gamble year after year.

We have government departments in Moosonee from every category. Now, there are civil servants who have families of all ages.

What has the government got for them in the line of recreation? Very little.

In a survey that was done by myself in the past, it showed that we had over one hundred employees that are working in both governments. It is a little larger now. There also are the status people who are wards of the Federal Government.

When the Federal Government installed the air base which brought in one hundred and twenty families and eighty single persons, they built a recreation facility for them. At the former air base now, one and one half miles from town, there is now a high school which has most of these facilities for their use only. A few are opened to the public but are hard to get to. You must find your own transportation.

Look at Hydro at the Abitibi Canyon in Fraserdale. There is no more than ninety working there but they have a million dollar or more sports complex to keep them happy and they also have a highway out of there to the South. Now it looks like they want to disband the houses and facilities there and they will. No one can do anything about it. Some friends of the government will be making money dismantling and selling those buildings. Perhaps it could be used to some people's advantage but you just watch and see what they will do.

Recreation is a very important occupation in any community. It is above any other thing where families are concerned.

If we had the recreation complex that is available for our Southern communities, we have the potential to develop some Bobby Orr's, Bobby Hull's and Guy Lafleur's in this community.

Our boys have done very well when they have gone South. They came back with trophies and ribbons. We have always gone to the South with our boys and men for competitive sports. Only one team has ever come here to play and they got clobbered. As you know, we have only about two months of natural ice here and the South has about six months of ice. It is quite a comparison, and the government wants us to keep fit! If we had the proper facilities here we could invite the South and they would see our part of the country, and they would learn how we live.

Ontario Housing

It is amazing how the Ontario Government lets the housing in the community be below standards for the kind of climate we have.

Some of the materials used are poor and the workmanship was just rushed; most of which was done by piece workers.

There has been a whole room of ceiling tiles drop because of poor installation. Doors are badly warped. Most homes have no storm doors so they have to tack polyethylene up at the doors to keep the draft out and, therefore, must use the side door. I have seen Ontario Housing South of here and stayed a night or two in them and there is no comparison between there and here.

Mind you, we have had some very clean and respectable persons as tenants in these houses: some dirty and not so respectable. It was the clean housewives I spoke to and found out how the houses were. Sure there are ones that have no control over their children who practically wreck the place almost beyond liveable conditions. They all have been told by the visiting homemaker what to do but they say yes just to get rid of her and they continue the same way of life. Few make feasible attempts after she has left.

Gas, Propane Water Heaters, Stoves

We understand the Ontario Housing gives out contracts to various propane and gas companies to supply the houses with stoves and water heaters and keep servicing them and keep gas on hand at all times.

We have cases here where the new tenants have no hot water for months, so how can the family take a bath or wash their clothes. They must go to their mother's place a mile away by taxi or go to the laundromat which also costs money.

We have families that have no propane for a day or two or even more to cook their meals for their families who go to school and play and who need the proper nourishment.

There are regulators that the gas is hooked up to. There is one hook up for each bottle. Only one tank services the house at one time. When one is used up you are supposed to shut it off and open

the other and then notify the supplier and he is supposed to replace it. The tenant is not to be without gas at any time. The way it is now there is only one full bottle delivered and they have to wait for a day or more. If they are lucky it might be replaced in an hour or two. At a few of these houses the regulators leak so only one bottle is used. The bottles do not last as long as they should. The servicing company knows about it but allows it to continue leaking.

A few of the tenants have had to buy hot plates and other appliances to cook meals for their children. It is not right that they have to spend this money when they can use it for something else which they need.

Furnaces

The furnaces in these low-rental houses are oil-fired and they have to be serviced periodically in order to give the best performance. I observed that servicemen very rarely gave periodical visits but the money was spent for such services. There are seventy-two furnaces to be serviced for Ontario Housing.

At one time there was a local native gentleman who was trained to service furnaces. He did look after them for a while until he had to take a full time job, as he wasn't getting his money on time to pay his bills, etc. He was doing a good job on them,

giving check ups and replacing parts any time of the day or night.

Now they have two men from the South who come during the summer to do certain check ups, replacing filters, etc. I found out it takes one half hour or more to do a furnace properly. I've also seen it on a TV program. It took these two gentlemen only about fifteen minutes to do three furnaces. I have seen it and it was verified by the occupants.

There were quite a few of these furnaces that were having trouble this winter and the James Bay Education Center was called to fix them. There were always two men for each call, one electrician and one plumber. It was always at night that they seemed to break down, so you can imagine what it costs Ontario Housing on top of what they had already paid.

Our Elders, the Senior Citizens of Moosonee

Elders are humans just like you and I; only they have more years past them than the younger generation of today.

These people who are sixty years and over have seen the depression with its hard times and going without what we take for granted at the present.

It is with regret that I have to write about some of the things that have happened here in the community to these kind people.

It has been four years since these elderly people have left their sons and daughters and their families, to live in the Senior Citizen's home in Moosonee.

Leaving was not the case that their sons and daughters did not want to look after them. It was the lack of accommodations as their families grew larger.

I have never heard or seen any of these elderly persons being mistreated by their own flesh and blood.

The very sad part is that these elderly people have on one or two occasions been threatened and beaten for their money. It is stolen from their purses and envelopes and their possessions are stolen from their apartments. They are not even related to these people and in some cases expect to receive their money, etc. back but they never do.

Below are a few incidents of the things that have happened to these Senior Citizens.

One elderly gentleman had his radio tape player taken from him. The person who stole the player sold it for a lousy ten bucks. The person who bought the player had the nerve to come back and ask for the tapes and without even waiting for an answer just up and left with the tapes.

Another elderly gentleman had just bought himself a pair of new overshoes. He was visited by a man who called him uncle, but was no relation at all.

They just came from the same place on the bay. When the visitor left he also left with the elderly gentleman's new overshoes.

There are two women in the home who are sisters and live in separate apartments. They are often visited by drunks, both women and men. Once these ladies let them in they head straight for the liquor store and buy a couple of bottles and even a case of beer. They then get the ladies drunk so as they will spend some more of their money on booze for them. When the money has run out and the booze is all gone, they go and knock on other apartments asking for money and cigarettes. Some even walk right in without even knocking. Some of these visitors even take things out of the apartments like towels, face cloths and pillowcases; things that are small and fit under their parkas.

It seems that these people know exactly when the old age pension cheques come in. They leave when the money is all gone and the food is all eaten or when the police finally have to evict them. Even though they get thrown out they seem to come back time after time. Only very occasionally will the elders ever keep them out.

There are times when the other elderly people have their doors boarded up and sleep in their clothes when such things are going on. Some of these elderly people have gone back to their original homes or to their children's homes.

These elderly people of our community have voiced their objections to the way this building is operated and built.

Some have even suggested having a security person to see that things run properly. They are willing to pay more on the rent to help cover such costs.

Before I forget, all people whether white, red or black have the right to do as they like and live and eat as they like, and they like a little privacy also. Now it appears that they do not get it at the Elderly complex.

Some are even bothered by people in the home itself. One adult is at the home supposed to be looking after her mother. It's just the opposite. The mother is looking after the daughter. While I'm writing this the daughter is in the hospital being dried out. Well, at least the mother is getting a few days rest. It is not the first time this has happened and I don't believe it will be the last time unless a miracle happens.

Now, some have their teenage grandsons and granddaughters with children of their own living with them and they bring in their teenage friends to drink and listen to loud music all hours of the morning. I realize, however, that some of these elderly people are forced to take in some of their grandchildren because of social problems, such as drinking or to just put them there for a night to babysit, but they end up staying for two or three weeks.

I think it would have been much better if there were smaller places in each community built, so these people can be closer to friends and relations. It would save their families a lot of money to come and see them when the only way is by air and it is expensive.

By having the big complex here in Moosonee it creates a lot of this trouble that we have here. The way they carry on, some families think it is a free hotel.

I do not think this community was ever asked if they would like to see a Senior Citizen's complex built.

It goes to show you that the South makes the decisions and the North cannot do a thing about it. There have been a lot of these decisions made in the past by the South and it has not turned out right. It has only cost more money. The money spent could have been spent on something else, and a lot of these misfortunes would not have happened to these elderly kind people.

Metis and Non Status Indians

I do not really know exactly the totals of Metis persons from this part of Canada, but in my travels I have met many of these persons in both Central and Southern Ontario as well as Northern Ontario. I'm sure if there was to be a survey taken the totals would be in the thousands. When you compare this

with the French and the rest of the residents of Ontario and other provinces it does not seem like a lot, but these people are humans and should be respected as such by the majority and minority.

We know of Status people from Quebec who have joined reserves in Ontario with their spouses and children and the children have no say in it. They cannot object until they reach a mature age of eighteen years and over. Some of them would like to go back but they would not be accepted by their own from Quebec. As far as Ontario is concerned they belong to the reserve here and would lose such benefits in line of health and their lousy four dollars a year.

What I would like to really express is that a Status person who wishes to become Non Status should do it on his or her own and as far as the children go, they should be left Status until they are of a mature age and can make up their own minds.

A person who is Status is crazy to become Non Status because now they have the right to vote and drink alcoholic beverages. There is nothing to gain but a great deal to lose, such as hunting and fishing rights and a visa if they wish to travel to see other parts of North America.

This subject on Non Status is very touchy with the younger generation of today. They resent their parents who have become enfranchised. Sometimes even

hostility is felt, not so that they may get money from the James Bay Hydro project, but to obtain their hunting and fishing rights. Because native it is in their blood stream to have these rights. It is the call of the wild.

Because they choose to stay here in Ontario they see their blood relations in Quebec go out to hunt when the time is right. As they never were under treaties they have more rights to the land there than the Status Indians that collect the four dollars a year and live on the reserve.

Although I have talked to quite a few of these people who are originally from Quebec, they think the people who did the signing of the contracts should not have signed it until they were notified that they have just as much rights to the land as anyone living there because of no treaties.

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and fishing in the James Bay Lowlands was a way of life and a means of existing to the Native, Metis and even the whites who lived here and raised their families in this area.

Then along came regulations and restrictions on hunting and fishing.

The Status persons were the only ones allowed to hunt and fish all year around. This aroused hard feelings and resentments on the ones that just took

it for granted that they could provide for their families through the means that nature intended. So it meant poaching to the ones that were restricted until there was work for them.

As one of the older people in the community, I have seen and heard of unusual things happening to these people that break the law. It has happened to me.

Fishing was a way of life for us here in the North and it was on fishing that I also wrote about prior to this brief. I had contacted different people who were from places around James Bay and Hudson Bay and they told me about the same things and of the ways of catching these fish and processing them for future use, such as smoking, salting and drying.

These fish all came up rivers to spawn, and have been doing so since nature began. We noticed their population diminishing slowly because of our dams which do not have fish ladders to allow the fish to go further upstream. Now they have to use other rivers to spawn their eggs and sometimes their eggs get eaten by other species if time is running out. I think the right department should do a thorough study and then perhaps some of the natives can provide for their families with a seasonal living.

Perhaps we could have these fish shipped South in our own country and, who knows, even Japan could finance a fishing operation as they like to spend or invest in fish, as you can see on our British Columbia coast.

Of primary importance to our way of life is hunting ducks and geese.

Being a guide for years, you notice a lot of things pertaining to hunting.

One is the change in shells. In the 1920's, 1930's and early 1940's we used standard shells. These days there are now the long range, magnum and super shells, and the range of these shells is further and they are more powerful.

It then is only natural that they can bring down birds at a higher range than the standard shell.

We in the North buy standard shells because they are the cheapest and cost half the price that super shells cost. They are really all we can afford. Our white hunting friends buy supershells and magnums at the price we are paying for standard shells.

The result of this is that when you take these hunters hunting, they shoot all birds at any height and this keeps the birds a certain height above our standard shell range. Another result is a lot of birds suffer and eventually die from lead poisoning. This is why I think it is important for hunters to use standard shells when hunting in the North.

What is very sad is we guide these parties from the South and they come back the next fall, thinking they know everything about the conditions and the way of the bird. Some of these hunters encounter trouble and they are lucky to get back safely.

When these hunters from the South go by themselves and shoot at birds passing over and sometimes they are lucky enough to bring them down within our standard range and amongst our decoys where they can be killed properly.

When the Commission receives this report it will be just about time when the geese will be honking around our back door and our brothers, the Status, will be killing and enjoying their delicious taste and nourishment of these geese that have fed on greens and grains from the South.

It hurts us Metis and Non Status Indians who are not allowed to hunt in the spring because we have hunted them before restrictions were enforced, as it was our way of life. Now our brothers and sisters who live on the East Coast of James Bay who are Metis and Non Status can hunt both seasons. As long as they are not employed and make their living on trapping and hunting.

In the spring it is generally the Canada geese that stop to find a mate here and in other coastal places and according to our surveys and findings the Canada geese are plentiful. It is only by chance we get to kill Canada geese. The Blue and Snow geese pass over the area if temperature and conditions are right. Wavies is their local name.

I must interrupt this subject as a 3/4 ton hydro truck is passing by. The woman driving it is definitely not an employee of Ontario Hydro.

These vehicles do take up gas. I know I will see it a couple of times more today so what's new.

Getting back to hunting; it is known that the wavies do not stop. This is the reason why the Status do not kill very many of them during the spring season.

The Canada's are not killed so much in the fall. It is very seldom that there is a poor crop of Canada's but the wavies have had bad seasons over the last 50 years. I think, and others think, that the migrating laws pertaining to migrating birds should be looked at and changed.

Some people think that the Metis and Non Status should be allowed to hunt if he or she is unemployed. The Status who have a full time job should not be allowed to hunt in the spring. I think this can be verified by our resource officers who are familiar with the people and who have lived with them for some time, although most of them are transferred after a year or two for reasons unknown. Now some of them that are observant enough would know that it would be equalized if hunting was given to the Metis and Non Status and those of the Status restricted in the spring.

Ontario Hydro and Other Government Departments

We know that electricity is very essential in our everyday living. There are a few who do not think so. I know of many North of here and some even in this community who go without electricity because that is the way they wish to live.

Perhaps the above paragraph does not fit into what I have to say about Ontario Hydro.

We know that it is government policy that all vehicles and equipment that belong to any department should only be used for business.

Every day we see the Hydro vehicles being used for social or domestic uses by persons not employed by Ontario Hydro. This has been observed by myself and brought to my attention by others.

This is not the only department of the Government that does this; it is practically every other department, some more than others.

There was one incident with an Ontario Hydro vehicle that was left with the keys in it while they were in a party at a certain place. A couple of young lads were passing by the vehicle and hopped in and went for a little ride. They were soon apprehended by the police; the one that took the responsibility was fined over \$200.00 when it came to court.

You see on TV where the police say the do's and don'ts. These should be followed by some people to prevent things like this happening.

We have three taxi companies here who are trying to make a living to support their families. They

could use the money that these people save by riding around in the government's vehicles.

Other Concerns

I think both governments should have a suggestion box or other method of some sort where the people of the province from both the North and South can express their ideas on how we can save money for these government departments.

Perhaps the departments have guidelines for the operation, but no one follows them. Even the executives do not follow them.

Well they should all be replaced.

You know in the old days companies used to have spotters looking out for their interests and the owners would put a stop to what was going on or replace if it was necessary. They paid for this person on the spot check.

Some of us who have lived South for a time, say for six months to a year or more, have had articles ordered from centres such as Simpsons and Eatons and have had their orders delivered right to their door by the express companies and railway.

But here in Moosonee it is just brought to the station and we in turn are notified by phone or mail to come and get it. Not everyone has a vehicle or means of transportation so they have to spend a lot more than their Southern friends.

As it is known that we in the North do not get the ways that they do in the South, we pay more for what we want. We have to exist. We know also that everyone who works seasonally doesn't get isolation pay or Northern allowance and they get smaller wages.

There are quite a few families who have lived in the South; even individuals, but they always end up coming back. I can understand it because they love the North and it is more free and it is where they were brought up and it is in their blood now. If there is more work or industries here and government offices, we of the North could look after ourselves.

You see these big cities with all the manufacturing are drawing a lot of people there, especially foreigners and immigrants. They will take anything to stay here in Canada with their relations and to get a job.

I found that these immigrants are helped to find jobs by their relations and government. In my travels in the past, I have noticed a lot of Canadians working, French and English doing domestic jobs; but now all I see Jamaicans and blacks who can not hardly speak English working in hotels. And as you fly over these cities you notice more than when in a car or other means of transportation the power that is being wasted.

